



Bruce Harrell
Seattle City Councilmember

March 7, 2011

Dear CTTAB Members,

The Energy, Technology, and Civil Rights (ETC) committee work plan for 2011 includes 23 technology issues. The Citizens' Telecommunications & Technology Advisory Board has identified six specific projects for 2011: Broadband, Public Access Television, Technology Matching Fund, Public Engagement, Apps for Seattle Contest, and Get Online Day. Among these technology issues, I have prioritized five issues for the board to assist the committee on for 2011.

The Great Student Initiative:

The Great Student Initiative is an effort by the Energy, Technology, and Civil Rights Committee to form new partnerships with information, communication and technology companies, service providers, and financial institutions to provide low-cost, high-speed Internet access, hardware and software for low-income students in the Seattle Public Schools, and creating a steering committee to advance the goals of the initiative. The committee is requesting some consultation from CTTAB to help develop the Great Student Initiative Steering Committee.

Apps for Seattle and Open Data:

The City of Seattle's open data website (Data.Seattle.Gov) launched February 2010. As of March 2011, the City has posted 279 datasets on data.seattle.gov. As the City continues publishing datasets online, the ETC requests the board track what datasets are made available and advise the ETC on what datasets the City should prioritize for upcoming release.

The ETC plans to launch the Apps for Seattle contest in the summer of 2011. Council has appropriated \$20,000 for the Apps for Seattle Contest. Work with the committee to complete an updated outline for Apps for Seattle that details the rollout of the contest.

Public Engagement Portal: My.Seattle.Gov and Seattle Speaks

Review and provide feedback on the rollout of My.Seattle.Gov and Seattle Speaks. My.Seattle.Gov was officially launched on January 31, 2011 and Seattle Speaks will launch this quarter. Work with the Department of Information Technology and the ETC on directing more users to create a single sign-on My.Seattle.Gov account. Review the widgets currently available and advise what widgets the City should prioritize for upcoming release. Seattle Speaks will provide the public an opportunity to engage in policy questions put forward by the City Council

City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025

(206) 684-8804, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025

E-mail Address: bruce.harrell@seattle.gov Web: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/harrell>

An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

and Mayor. Additionally, the public can also generate their own policy questions for dissemination. Monitor and review the launch of this new public engagement system and provide feedback to the ETC.

Cable Television Franchise Fee:

As you may know, during the fall 2010 budget review process, the City Council passed Ordinance 123461, raising the cable television franchise fee from 4.2 percent to 4.4 percent. This is a fee that each cable franchise operator in the city of Seattle pays to the City as a percent of gross revenues. This fee increase will generate about \$320,000 per year, which will be deposited into the Cable Television Franchise Subfund.

The City Council appropriated a portion of the new revenue, but also left a portion unappropriated. The Council would like DoIT's and CTTAB's recommendation on how best to spend the remaining amount of \$182,000 per year. Candidates for this funding include the Technology Matching Fund grant program, and services to be provided by the public access television operator. I believe that CTTAB members, with their knowledge of and experience with the City's various technology programs, can provide valuable guidance to the Council.

The Council requests that in the second quarter of 2011, DoIT and CTTAB report back and submit proposed legislation that would appropriate the \$182,000.

Broadband (Expanding Fiber Network):

The Citizens' Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board (CTTAB) urges the Mayor and the Council to move forward to bring a Fiber-to-the-Premise network to Seattle. In the interim, the ETC is studying the installation of additional fiber in the city by improving the permitting process and possibly allowing build out of fiber on city conduits. The committee is currently working with the Department of Information Technology, City Light, and service providers to change policies to incentivize and develop an attractive environment for companies to run more fiber.

I thank you in advance for your assistance on these technology issues.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Harrell

Seattle City Councilmember

Chair: Energy, Technology and Civil Rights Committee

206-684-8804

City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025

(206) 684-8804, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025

E-mail Address: bruce.harrell@seattle.gov Web: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/harrell>

An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.